

EVENTS

SUBSCRIBE

The Iowa Communications Network — the state government's internet service provider — said it's changing how it delivers service.



By *Jake Williams*

SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 5:38 PM

BIO ▼



Iowa is increasing its focus on cloud computing and cybersecurity, which is changing how its state government network delivers services.

Phil Groner, the chief operating officer for the Iowa Communications Network, said his agency's efforts to develop more cybersecurity offerings have become the group's first priority.

"We've been very focused on developing our cybersecurity efforts," Groner said in a video interview at the National Association of State Technology Directors Annual Conference. "We're creating new cybersecurity products and services to provide to our end users to help them protect their networks, as well."

Groner said ICN has developed a security bureau that brings in the state's cybersecurity team and the state's public safety agencies to share information and manage incoming threats. In addition, the state's broadband information center works alongside the security bureau to monitor threats on the network.

ICN also provides cybersecurity services to small rural schools and hospitals that tap into the network, Groner said.

Rural schools and hospitals "are really requiring and asking for these types of services," Groner said. "We've really changed from a traditional internet service provider and telephone provider to become a more service-driven provider to our end users for all these types of different services that they're asking for."

On cloud computing, Groner said the state recently inked a deal with a private sector partner to move its managed voice services, like phone systems, into the cloud — allowing users to more rapidly download updates and roll out services to voice-over-IP connected phones.

"We're no longer going to be in the voice infrastructure business where the state of Iowa owns its own voice infrastructure," Groner said. "We're doing an end-to-end solution that is cloud-based."

The new system will move the state away from capital investments in new equipment every couple of years, and instead into a consistent operating expense model that ends up saving the state money.

Users "can now receive updates, grab new services from the cloud, in a much faster way than they had before," Groner said.

Stay alert to all the latest state and local IT news.

dailyscoop
Produced by statescoop

SIGN UP TODAY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

0 Comments

StateScoop

1 Login ▾

♥ Recommend

🔗 Share

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

✉ Subscribe

🗣 Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add

🔒 Privacy

DISQUS

**Don't gamble with
your security.**

Verizon Managed Security makes it easy
to manage risk.

verizon✓

Learn more



RELATED ARTICLES



statescoop

ABOUT / CONTACT US

CONTRIBUTE



COPYRIGHT 2016 STATESCOOP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

BACK TO TOP ^